8th March 1947]

in July 1946, regarding supply of provisions, etc., from the Wholesale Rice Co-operative Stores at Tiruvottiyur, without permit from the rationing authorities;

(*b*) whether similar petitions were received by the Collector and the Divisional Officer of the Saidapet taluk;

(*c*) whether any action was taken thereon; and

(*d*) if not, whether the Government propose to take any action on the same?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" (*a*) Yes. The complaint made in the petition was that the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies with a party of about 70 persons visited Kathivakkam, a village near Tiruvottiyur, on a pleasure trip, that Sri Rangaswami Ayyangar, Manager of the Wholesale Co-operative Stores, in Tiruvottiyur, arranged with one 'Kumara Vilas' Hotel to prepare 250 iddlies and 100 jilabees to entertain the party and that this was done without obtaining the previous permission of the Rationing authorities.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) & (*d*) The petition received by the Government was forwarded to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) and by the Board to the Collector for necessary action. With reference to the petitions received by the Collector and the Divisional Officer, Saidapet, the Collector conducted an enquiry into the matter and sent a report to the Board, with the connected records. The Board, after perusing the records, instructed the District Rationing Officer, to obtain the sanction of the District Magistrate, Chingleput for the prosecution of the persons who violated the orders of the Government, prohibiting the holding of a party consisting of more than 30 persons, consult the Public Prosecutor, get a complaint drafted and have it filed in the Court. The Collector has since reported that necessary action is being taken in this regard."

Alleged reservation of front seats in buses in mufassal.

* 89 *Q.*—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the front seats in buses plying in the mufassal are permanently marked with the word "reserved"; and

(*b*) whether this mark is used as a cover to evict passengers occupying the front seats in order to provide comfortable accommodation to officials, especially of the Police and Revenue departments?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Government have no information that this is generally the case though there may be some such instances."

[8th March 1947

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Will the Government make enquiries with regard to this matter, that members of the public are ousted from their seats and places are provided for officials, especially those belonging to the Police department? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" Certainly; the Government will take strong action if anything like that is done."

SRI K. O. ANTHONI :—" Will the Government take the information from us that it is being carried out? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" The Government have already, on the information contained in the question, taken steps in the matter."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Will the Government issue necessary instructions to the concerned people and to the bus-owners? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" The Government have already taken, as I said, action in the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government issue a Press Communiqué, so that the public may know their rights in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" No difficulty in doing that, I think."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The House will now adjourn and will meet at 2 p.m."

(After lunch—2 p.m.)

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1947-48—*cont.*

* SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI :—" Mr. President, Sir, the Budget contains a large number of items which are beneficial to the villagers. The Hon. the Premier is to be congratulated for preparing a truly villagers' budget. Prohibition is working already in eight districts and may be extended to other districts next year. The introduction of prohibition is responsible for the loss of huge revenues of about ten lakhs of rupees. This policy of introducing prohibition has been taken up by our Ministry and the poor people are greatly benefited by this policy. Our children and our children's children will be very grateful for the policies that have been initiated by the present Ministry with the support of the legislators belonging to all parties. Our Government has done very well in tiding over the food crisis last year. A number of schemes that are essential for producing food grains are being taken on hand. Firstly, the well-sinking scheme for which the Government have been giving grants has been responsible to help the small agriculturists; but the Government grant of Rs. 300 for each well is not adequate during these days when the prices of all materials and the cost of labour have gone up. The poor cultivator is not able to invest his portion and is under a great handicap. So, I would suggest that the Government grant may be raised to Rs. 500 at least.